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FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Letter dated 7 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, on 13 March 1998, the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, issued a decree on activities relating to the celebration in Turkmenistan of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The decree by the President of Turkmenistan confirmed the national programme of activities proposed by the Majlis (parliament) and the Government of Turkmenistan devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also the composition of the Organizational Committee for Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The President of Turkmenistan is the Chairman of the Organizational Committee for Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Committee is composed of the Vice-Chairman of the Majlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Justice, the Director of the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, the Chairman of the Turkmenistan National Trade Unions Centre, the Chairman of the Women's League of Turkmenistan, the Chairman of the Turkmenistan Youth Alliance, the Director of

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the "Turkmenpress" State Information Agency, the Director of the History Institute of the Turkmenistan Cabinet of Ministers and others.

The national programme of activities devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides for the following:

(a) A special meeting of the Majlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(b) The holding in conjunction with representatives of accredited international organizations in Turkmenistan of:

(i) An international conference on the topic "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and experience acquired in the democratic development of States";

(ii) An international seminar on the topic "Implementation of international standards for the rights of women and children in the legislation and practice of independent Turkmenistan";

(iii) A national seminar on the topic "The national legal status of permanent neutrality and Turkmenistan's compliance with its obligations relating to the human dimension";

(c) A scientific conference on the topic "The experience of people's democracy and customary law in Turkmenistan's State and social structure";

(d) Public readings conducted in all regions of the country, in conjunction with creative, religious and international organizations, on the topic "Spiritual rebirth and the establishment of a democratic society in Turkmenistan";

(e) The organization of thematic television and radio series entitled "Ensuring and protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens in Turkmenistan" and "Saparmurat Turkmenbashi's concept of the building of a democratic and humane society in Turkmenistan";

(f) The large-scale publication in the State language (Turkmen) and Russian of brochures with the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(g) The publication of collections of international and national legislative acts relating to:

(i) Humanitarian law: international instruments and the legislation of Turkmenistan;

(ii) The legal status of women in Turkmenistan;

(iii) The constitutional rights and duties of young people in Turkmenistan;

(iv) The legal status of foreign nationals in Turkmenistan;

(h) The regular publication in national and local newspapers and magazines of a series of articles and sketches relating to the implementation of the rights and freedoms of citizens, the building of a civil society, and the democratization of State and public life in Turkmenistan;

(i) The holding in the country's cities and districts of folklore and musical festivals, sporting events, and fine-arts competitions, including children's festivals and competitions;

(j) The organization in libraries, museums, high schools and institutions of higher learning of photographic exhibitions and thematic display stands devoted to the life and activities of people in Turkmenistan;

(k) The holding in the country's high schools and institutions of higher learning of thematic competitions and quizzes relating to contemporary norms of international law and Turkmenistan's legislation in the field of human rights and freedoms.

In addition to the foregoing, I have the honour to state that the law of Turkmenistan on lodging appeals in court against actions by State bodies, public associations, local-government bodies and officials that violate the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, adopted by the Majlis of Turkmenistan, entered into force on 8 February 1998. On 28 March 1998, the Majlis also adopted a draft law on the Civil Code of Turkmenistan, which has been submitted for national discussion.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under items 46 and 113 (a) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Aksoltan ATAEVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan
to the United Nations